

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device comprising:

storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when said first hardware configuration was received;

receiving a second hardware configuration over a network, wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a memory of said networked communications device;

performing a checksum operation on said second hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said second hardware configuration;

creating a timestamp associated with said second hardware configuration to indicate when said second hardware configuration was received; and

programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration, wherein said programming occurs in conjunction with a boot process initiation if said second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration.

2. (Original) The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said networked communications device is a router.

3. (Original) The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said networked communications device is a switch.

4. (Original) The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

collecting information, wherein a component of said networked communications device sends a configuration description to a processor of said networked communications device;

creating said first hardware description, wherein said processor creates said first hardware description using said configuration description; and

storing said first hardware description in non-volatile memory.

5. (Original) The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises verifying security information.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises

configuring said networked communications device with a schedule for initiating said receiving of said second hardware configuration.

7. (Original) The method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 6, wherein said method further comprises comparing said first hardware configuration with said second hardware configuration.

8. (Currently Amended) A networked communications device comprising:

- a bus;
- a memory unit coupled to said bus;
- a processor coupled to said bus, said processor executing a method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device comprising:
  - storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when said first hardware configuration was received;
  - receiving a second hardware configuration over a network, wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a memory of said networked communications device;
  - performing a checksum operation on said second hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said second hardware configuration;
  - creating a timestamp associated with said second hardware configuration to indicate when said second hardware configuration was received; and
  - programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration, wherein said programming occurs in

conjunction with a boot process initiation if said second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration.

9. (Original) The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said networked communications device is a router.

10. (Original) The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said networked communications device is a switch.

11. (Original) The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said method further comprises:

collecting information, wherein a component of said networked communications device sends a configuration description to a processor of said networked communications device;

creating said first hardware description, wherein said processor creates said first hardware description using said configuration description; and

storing said first hardware description in non-volatile memory.

12. (Original) The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said method further comprises verifying security information.

13. (Currently Amended) The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said method further comprises configuring said networked communications device with a schedule for initiating said receiving of said second hardware configuration.

14. (Original) The networked communications device as recited in Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises comparing said first hardware configuration with said second hardware configuration.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-usable~~ computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform the steps of:

storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when said first hardware configuration was received;

receiving a second hardware configuration over a network, wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a centralized memory area of said networked communications device;

performing a checksum operation on said second hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said second hardware configuration;

creating a timestamp associated with said second hardware configuration to indicate when said second hardware configuration was received; and

programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration, wherein said programming occurs in conjunction with a boot process initiation if said second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-usable~~ computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein said networked communications device is a router.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-usable~~ computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein said networked communications device is a switch.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-usable~~ computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein said steps further comprise:

collecting information, wherein a component of said networked communications device sends a configuration description to a processor of said networked communications device;

creating said first hardware description, wherein said processor creates said first hardware description using said configuration description; and

storing said first hardware description in non-volatile memory.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-usable~~ computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein said steps further comprise verifying security information.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-usable~~ computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein said steps further comprise configuring said networked communications device with a schedule for initiating said receiving of said second hardware configuration.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-usable~~ computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 20, wherein said steps further comprise comparing said first hardware configuration with said second hardware configuration.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device comprising:

a means for storing a first hardware configuration of said networked communications device having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when said first hardware configuration was received;

a means for receiving a second hardware configuration over a network, wherein said second hardware configuration is received into a memory of said networked communications device;

a means for performing a checksum operation on said second hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said second hardware configuration;

a means for creating a timestamp associated with said second hardware configuration to indicate when said second hardware configuration was received; and

a means for programming a programmable logic unit on said networked communications device according to said second hardware configuration, wherein said means for programming occurs in conjunction with a boot process initiation if said second hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said first hardware configuration.

23. (Original) The system for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 22 wherein said networked communications device is a router.

24. (Original) The system for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 22 wherein said networked communications device is a switch.

25. (Original) The system for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 22, further comprising a means for collecting a configuration description of a component of said networked communications device and a means for using said configuration description in creating said first hardware description.

26. (Original) The system for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device as recited in Claim 22, further comprising a means for verifying security information.